UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.154/290
10 June 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

I have the honour of requesting that the text of the enclosed note verbale, sent to the United States Mission to the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations on 8 June 1996 (see annex), be circulated as an official document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

The above-mentioned note verbale refers to the item presented by Cuba at the last meeting of the Committee, held on 14 May 1996.

(Signed) Bruno RODRIGUEZ PARRILLA

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ANNEX

[Original: Spanish and English]

Note verbale dated 8 June 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and wishes to refer to the report made by Cuba, at the meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country held on 14 May 1996, concerning the installation, within the security area of the Cuban diplomatic mission, of a street sign reading "Brothers to the Rescue Corner", which took place during an offensive and slanderous ceremony attacking the Republic of Cuba and its Permanent Mission and presided over by the Mayor of New York City, with the participation of the above-mentioned terrorist organization.

During the meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the United States Mission undertook to conduct the necessary consultations with the authorities of New York City in order to take measures to remove the street sign in question. In addition, the Committee agreed that its Chairman should report, as soon as possible, on the results of the steps taken in that regard by the United States Mission on behalf of the authorities of the host country.

More than three weeks have past since the meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, and the United States Mission has not indicated in any way that it has proceeded or intends to proceed, in a serious and responsible manner, to assume and carry out its commitment with the Committee.

On the contrary, as a clear result of the Committee's meeting and the report by the Permanent Mission of Cuba denouncing the ceremony organized by the Mayor of New York City, an act which is incompatible with all civic ethics and which was prompted by political motivations and violated the most basic obligations assumed by the host country under the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, on the same date, 14 May 1996, and at the same time that the meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country was taking place, a second, identical, street sign was installed, this time on the pavement across the street from the Permanent Mission of Cuba in the same place authorized by the host country for the holding of so-called "demonstrations", which are nothing but offensive and criminal acts against the security of the Permanent Mission of Cuba and the dignity and moral and physical integrity of its personnel.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba and its Permanent Mission to the United Nations reiterate their denunciation and consider the installation of both the first sign as well as the second one inadmissible.

In the case of the street sign placed within the security area of the Cuban diplomatic mission, which impairs both the normal functioning and the security conditions of the building occupied by the Cuban diplomatic headquarters, the Permanent Mission of Cuba reiterates that the authorities of the host country

bear and will bear complete and absolute responsibility for all the security risks for the Permanent Mission of Cuba that have already resulted and may result in future from the creation of a new potential focal point of conflict less than 2 metres from the facade of the building occupied by the Permanent Mission of Cuba.

This was confirmed by the recent incidents that took place on Memorial Day, when several individuals attempted to lay flowers at the foot of the street sign within the security area of the Permanent Mission of Cuba, which forced the New York City police authorities themselves to remove those persons from the area. Nevertheless, the memorial ceremonies that had been planned were carried out and separate flowers were laid under the second street sign, situated on the pavement opposite the facade of the Cuban diplomatic mission, and are still there.

In addition, an offensive graffito was recently painted on the asphalt pavement in front of the entrance to the building occupied by the Permanent Mission of Cuba, precisely within the area for pedestrian traffic cordoned off by barriers between the police booth and the main entrance to the Cuban diplomatic mission.

The street signs placed within the security area of the Permanent Mission of Cuba and on the pavement across the street from it constitute an act of political support for the illegal and terrorist activities of the organization "Brothers to the Rescue". The United States Federal Aviation Administration revoked, albeit belatedly, the pilot's licence held by the head of that organization.

According to statements by the Federal Aviation Administration itself, the emergency order to revoke the pilot's licence of José Basulto was issued "on the basis of evidence of previous violations of Federal Aviation Administration regulations and of two unauthorized operations related to incursions by José Basulto into the airspace of the Republic of Cuba on July 13, 1995, and February 24, 1996".

In view of this step by the federal aviation authorities of the United States and the fact that the United States Mission to the United Nations has not taken the necessary and sufficient measures to carry out the commitment undertaken in the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Permanent Mission of Cuba reaffirms its view that the principal result of the failure to act by the host country's authorities and their position that is incompatible with decisions by their own Government is to encourage a climate of impunity in which numerous provocative and outrageous acts and terrorist activities have been and are being carried out against the Republic of Cuba and its diplomatic mission to the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations calls upon the United States Mission to make a speedy and definitive response and carry out the commitment undertaken in the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and its obligations and responsibilities as host country of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations reserves the right to denounce these acts and to have recourse to the competent bodies of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, as the Organization's sole universal and genuinely sovereign body.